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(North Chicago, IL) - There will be a ground breaking in North Chicago Saturday for a memorial to the golden 13. Thirteen men who made history during world war two when they became the first African American officers in the U.S. Navy.

Frank Sublett had no thought of making history when he enlisted in the navy in 1942. A resident of Glencoe he would become one the golden 13 -- the first African Americans to be commissioned naval officers. He is 86 now and the only living member of that historic group. "I figured we paved the way for everyone. For those who are underprivileged to go to college, those who are unable to achieve the other things that they want in commercial life. And I think it helped everyone," said Frank Sublett, one of the Golden 13. Although members the group went their separate ways they always got back together for a reunion.

With \$97-thousand dollars obtained by Congressman Mark Kirk a monument is being created to honor the 13. The ground breaking will take place Saturday morning at Veterans Memorial Park in downtown North Chicago at Sheridan road and Broadway. Ted Hudson is president of the Chicago chapter of world war two naval veterans of great lakes. These men after several weeks of arduous training were selected as the first 13 African American commissioned officers in the united states navy. They were told to march to the main site, pick up their uniforms, don't stop by the officers' club, and come back to their small, segregated quarters," said Hudson. "It's quite an honor for the city of North Chicago to have such a memorial brought here from the golden 13," said North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham. Survivors of the golden 13 dwindled to one last week when Graham Martin died. His daughter will attend the ceremony. As officer candidate trainees the golden 13 compiled a class average of 3.89 on a 4 point scale. That's a record that still stands today.